

pendent during the last year for the education of the deaf and dumb, and the sum of \$1,610, for the education of the blind; leaving in the treasury of the joint fund, unapplied, the sum of \$821.06.

In the month of April 1840, a murder was committed in Frederick county by Frederick Fritz, alias Jacob Brucker, who was at the following April term of Carroll county court, tried, convicted and sentenced to be hung. My immediate predecessor signed the warrant for his execution, but afterwards granted a respite at the request of a number of respectable persons who suggested doubts of his sanity. This was done to give an opportunity of collecting information respecting his previous history, which, it seemed, has not been made a subject of inquiry at his trial. Many depositions and communications were received by my predecessor, stating particulars, which, in his judgment, if truly set forth, were sufficient to shew that Fritz had been subject to fits of insanity for many years, and that he was completely deranged when last seen in the city of Washington, a few days before the commission of the crime. Statements were also received of the opinion of respectable and intelligent citizens of Westminster, who had opportunities of seeing and conversing with the prisoner. Their opinion was, that he was in full possession of his reason, and subject to no disorder of mind, except such as was occasionally produced by a violent and ungovernable temper.

The conflicting character of these statements as to the sanity of the prisoner, determined my predecessor, (after consulting with Judge Brewer, who sat upon his trial, and who thought a further investigation ought to be made as to the condition of his mind,) to suggest to the Legislature, the propriety of authorizing the court of Carroll county, to examine witnesses at its next term on the subject. In conformity with this suggestion, a bill was introduced into the Senate, and passed by that body, but was not acted upon in the House of Delegates, because, it is presumed, of the shortness of the time which remained of the session after it was received in the House. In consideration of these circumstances, it was deemed proper to withhold the warrant for the execution of the prisoner, so as to enable the Legislature to act definitely upon the suggestion of my predecessor, which is now respectfully renewed.

Believing that the affairs of Maryland, at this time, should first command your consideration, allusion has been purposely avoided to many matters of great national importance. In the hope that this course will be equally agreeable to the Senate and House, I beg leave to express the belief, that by wholesome legislation and judicious reforms, the evils under which the State now labours, will at no very distant day, be removed. In the character of our State, of which every Marylander has just cause to be proud; in its agricultural, mineral and commercial resources, the untiring energy and proverbial patriotism of its people, we should all find the hope and consolation, that great as are its present embarrassments, they can, and will be, ere long, surmounted. Invoking then, at this